Names and Locations of Streams in the 2008 Stream Maintenance Program

Rohnert Park/Cotati

Stream Name	Location
Laguna de Santa Rosa	Copeland Creek to Stony Point Road
Laguna de Santa Rosa	Stony Point Road to Llano Road
Cotati Creek	Old Redwood Hwy. to Laguna de Santa Rosa
Cotati Creek	Valparaiso Road to Paige Street
Laguna de Santa Rosa	Gravenstein Way to Commerce Blvd.
Laguna de Santa Rosa	Redwood Drive to Copeland Creek
Coleman Creek	Upstream of Snyder Road
Coleman Creek	Snyder Lane to Hillview Way
Bellevue-Wilfred Channel	Railroad tracks to Millbrae Ave.
Copeland Creek	Snyder Lane to Country Club Drive
Copeland Creek	Seed Farm Drive to Commerce Blvd.
Copeland Creek	Redwood Drive to Laguna de Santa Rosa
Gossage Creek	Stony Point Road to Lowell Ave.
Cook Creek	Golf Course Drive to Coleman Creek
Hinebaugh Creek	State Farm Blvd. to Commerce Blvd.
Hinebaugh Creek	Commerce Blvd. to Hwy. 101
Hinebaugh Creek	Labath Ave. to Rohnert Park Expy.
Golf Creek	Behind Double Decker Lanes
Wilfred Creek	Snyder Lane to Santa Rosa Ave.

Santa Rosa

Stream Name	Location
Peterson Creek	Upstream of Guerneville Road
Abramson Creek	Upstream of Guerneville Road
Coffey Creek	Piner Road to Piner Creek
Brush Creek	Hwy. 12 to Santa Rosa Creek
Austin Creek	Middle Rincon Road to Ducker Creek
Ducker Creek	Middle Rincon Road to Rinconada Road
Ducker Creek	Rinconada Road to Austin Creek
Kawana Springs	Petaluma Hill Road to Santa Rosa Ave.
Colgan Creek	Hwy. 101 to Hearn Ave.
Colgan Creek	Hearn Ave. to Bellevue Ave.
Colgan Creek	Stony Point Road to Todd Road
Colgan Creek	Bellevue Ave. to Stony Point Road
Sierra Park Creek	Hoen Ave. to Mayette Ave.
Sierra Park Creek	Mayette Ave. to Spring Creek
Steele Creek	Lance Drive to Ridley Ave.
Roseland Creek	Stony Point Road to Ludwig Road
Santa Rosa Creek	Stony Point Road to Fulton Road
Santa Rosa Creek	Fulton Road to Willowside Road
Piner Creek	Hopper Road to Piner Road
Piner Creek	Guerneville Road to Fulton Road
Piner Creek	Railroad tracks to Marlow Road
Paulin Creek	Cleveland Ave. to Hardies Road
Paulin Creek	Hardies Road to Coffey Lane
Paulin Creek	Marlow Road to Piner Creek
Colgan Creek	Santa Rosa Ave. to Hwy. 101
Brush Creek	Montecito Ave. to Hwy. 12
Todd Creek	Upstream of Todd Road
Airport Creek	Railroad tracks to Skylane Blvd.
Airport Creek	Skylane Blvd. to end of property
College Creek	College Ave. to Santa Rosa Creek

Sonoma

Stream Name	Location
Fryer Creek	Upstream of Andrieux Street
Nathanson Creek	Various locations
Sonoma Creek	Near Happy Lane

Petaluma

Stream Name	Location
Corona Creek	McDowell Blvd. to Hwy. 101
Lichau Creek	McDowell Blvd. to Hwy. 101
Petaluma River	Adjacent to SCWA property
Adobe Creek	Sartori Lane to Lakeville Hwy.
Washington Creek	Sonoma Mountain Pkwy. to Hawk Drive
Washington Creek	Sonoma Mountain Pkwy. to Maria Drive
McDowell Creek	Upstream of Caulfield Lane
Thompson Creek	Westridge Road to Sunnyslope Road
Corona Creek	Telford Ave. to Sonoma Mountain Pkwy.
Corona Creek	Sonoma Mountain Pkwy. to Wellington Drive
Lynch Creek	Hwy. 101 to Petaluma River

Windsor

Stream Name	Location
Starr Creek	Oak Park Street to Railroad Ave.
Faught Creek	Downstream of Old Redwood Hwy.
Windsor Creek	Downstream of Windsor Road
Starr Creek	Upstream of Windsor River Road
Windsor Creek	Brooks Road to Natalie Drive
Windsor Creek	Natalie Drive to Lazy Creek

Sediment Removal Locations

Rohnert Park

Stream Name	Location
Copeland Creek	Between Snyder Lane and Country Club Drive
Coleman Creek	Between Snyder Lane and Hillview Way
Hinebaugh Creek	Between Labath Ave. and Rohnert Park Expy.

Santa Rosa

Stream Name	Location
Todd Creek	Upstream of Delores Lane
Steele Creek	At Gamay Street
College Creek	At West College Ave.
Airport Creek	At Skylane Blvd.
Ducker Creek	At Benecia Drive
Colgan Creek	At Hearn Ave.

Petaluma

Stream Name	Location
Washington Creek	At Madison Street

At right, removal of accumulated sediment from a concrete box-culvert

Environment and Recreation

Our commitment to routine annual maintenance for flood protection has not wavered since the 1960s, when many of our stream and channel facilities were constructed. SCWA's approach to stream maintenance has evolved beyond flood management, however, and now includes multiple objectives, such as resource protection and environmental sustainability.

Agency biologists supervise maintenance work to ensure compliance with federal laws and regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act, as well as state laws and regulations administered by the Department of Fish and Game and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Maintaining compliance requires an extensive authorization process each year for SCWA's planned maintenance activities.

The Agency takes advantage of its role as a steward of local streams by planting native trees not only to improve flood protection and wildlife habitat but also to reduce greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, in an effort to combat global warming.

Public access to paths and trails along streams allows outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy the natural beauty of our region. SCWA works with other government and non-government entities to increase and improve public access and to connect trails for a variety of outdoor uses, such as hiking, bicycling, and jogging.

For more information about the SCWA Stream Maintenance Program, visit *www.sonomacountywater.org* or contact Stream Maintenance Coordinator Jon Niehaus at (707) 521-1845.

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

Stream Maintenance Program

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

Stream Maintenance Program

Improving *Water Quality* and *Flood Protection* in Our Streams While Providing *Wildlife Habitat* and *Recreation* for Our Community

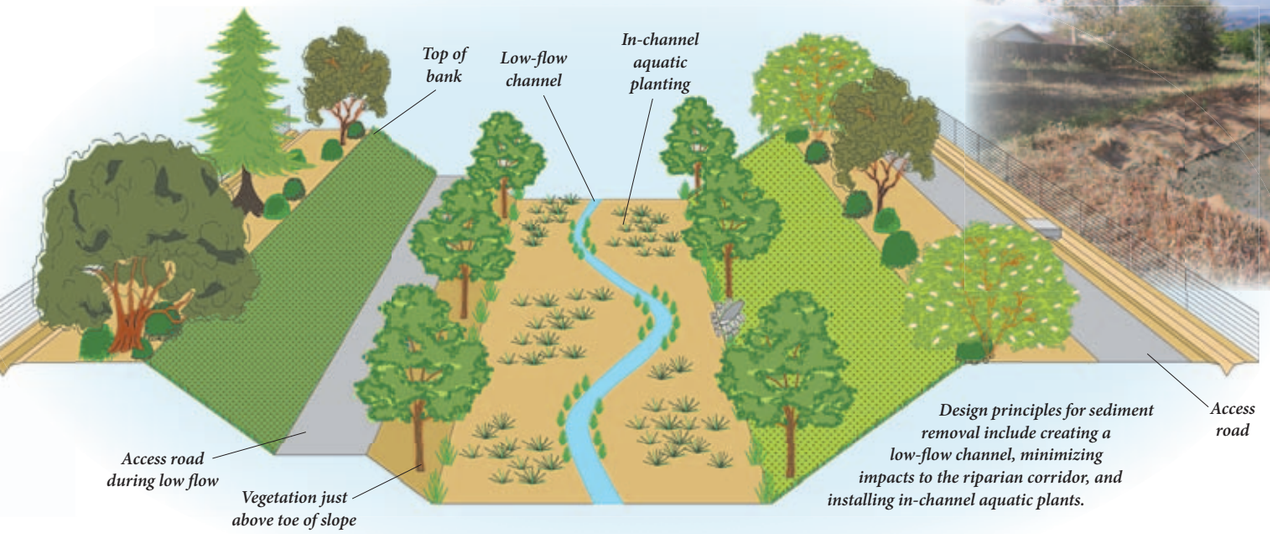
Each summer the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) works in and around streams throughout Sonoma County, removing sediment and garbage and planting trees. Riparian canopies—mature trees surrounding a stream—provide shade, which helps cool the water and shade out less desirable plant species.

Stream maintenance activities support a pro-active regional approach to flood protection and stream and wildlife habitat restoration. Stream maintenance also offers our community the access and the infrastructure needed to enjoy streams for recreational activities.

Maintaining Our Waterways

SCWA maintains approximately 75 miles of engineered flood control channels in Sonoma County. Such channels are designed and constructed to provide a specific level of flood protection, such as for a 25-, 50-, or 100-year flood event. The channels are located primarily near Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Windsor, Petaluma, and Sonoma. The Agency also has discretionary hydraulic easements to maintain approximately 150 miles of modified and natural streams. Such easements give SCWA the right, but not the obligation, to conduct maintenance activities (typically vegetation and debris removal) on private property to maintain the hydraulic capacity of both natural and modified streams (those that have been improved for local drainage but are not designed to provide a specific level of flood protection). You can view maps of these easements at *www.sonomacountywater.org*.

Funding for the Stream Maintenance Program is provided by tax assessments from Flood Control Zones.



Design principles for sediment removal include creating a low-flow channel, minimizing impacts to the riparian corridor, and installing in-channel aquatic plants.

Below, a completed sediment removal project that includes a sinuous low-flow channel and preserves existing trees

At right, sediment removal in Hinebaugh Creek that improves flood protection while maintaining the riparian canopy

At right, Santa Rosa Creek in 1997 under historic flood control practices (Before) and in 2007 following selective vegetation thinning and pruning to establish a mature, upper-story riparian canopy (After)

Sediment Removal

SCWA works to remove excess sediment from engineered flood channels when streams are driest, usually from June 15 to October 15. The preferred approach is to use the most reasonable, time-efficient method with the least environmental impact that is not cost-prohibitive. The Agency is progressively pursuing opportunities to improve channel function and conduct maintenance activities that are self-sustaining and will require less maintenance in the future.

Stream Bank Stabilization

SCWA routinely repairs and stabilizes banks along its engineered channels. Eroding banks that are not repaired will continue to destabilize and deposit sediment into the waterways. Maintenance activities include minimizing hardscape by back-filling with soil, installing erosion-control fabric, seeding with grasses, and planting native trees to provide shade and additional stability.

Vegetation Management

The Agency's vegetation management practices involve restoring local streams into waterways that provide not only flood protection but also good water quality and habitat for wildlife. The goal is to establish a mature riparian canopy with alders, maples, and other trees that grow tall and stretch their branches over the water. This is conducted in a phased approach by selectively thinning brush and multi-trunk tree species on stream banks and planting single-trunk, canopy-forming trees. A mature riparian canopy will reduce the level of routine maintenance required over the long term.

Vegetation management activities also include mowing; tree pruning; willow pruning and removal; blackberry, cattail, ludwigia, and exotics removal; and nursery-stock tree planting. These efforts are overseen by a biologist, a certified arborist, or other qualified personnel.

Other Maintenance Activities

- Access road maintenance
- Culvert repair and installation
- Trash and debris removal
- Fence maintenance
- Graffiti removal

At right, debris blocking a stream